(d) Yes, Sir. The export of Indian floriculture product has shown a decline in 2007-08 over 2006-07 due to following reasons:-

(i) Stiff competition from Africa in view of their low production cost, comparatively low air freight and zero import duty for European Union (EU) countries.

(ii) Lack of adequate cold chain infrastructure.

(iii) High input costs like fertilizers, pesticides, planting material etc.

(iv) High air freight rates and handling charges at airports.

Comparative production of crops to our neighbouring countries

†*559. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during recent years from 2005-08 the annual agriculture productivity growth rate in India has been less in comparison to that of our neighbouring countries Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the increase in annual productivity of wheat, rice, pulses and other grains in the above countries and India; and

(c) the average target fixed during the said period to increase annual productivity growth rate in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per reports of Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) available up to the year 2006-07, the growth rates in productivity of wheat, rice, pulses and coarse grains during 2005-06 and 2006-07 in India *vis-a-vis* our neighboring countries namely, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are given in the table below:

Country	Rice		Wheat		Coarse grain		Pulses	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
India	1.15	0.55	0.66	2.01	4.18	9.65	50.94	-0.33
Pakistan	-0.32	0.9	-2.6	9.94	-5.91	12.06	0.86	0
Bangladesh	2.72	0	-12.23	34.06	13.89	-8.87	-16.08	-3.19
Nepal	-2.36	-5.88	-2.8	3.94	0.57	1.81	0.15	0.18
Sri Lanka	4.69	5.98	NA	NA	1.92	10.14	NA	NA

SOURCE: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) NA: Not available

(c) The annual targets fixed for production of rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses in India during the Agricultural years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are indicated in the table below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Million Tonnes)

Crops	Annual production targets			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Rice	87.80	92.80	93.00	97.00
Wheat	75.53	75.53	75.50	78.50
Coarse Cereals	36.52	36.52	37.50	42.00
Pulses	15.15	15.15	15.50	15.50

Suicide by farmers

†560.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of suicides by farmers during the five years prior to the year 2001 were 15,747 every year while it has increased to 17,366 every year during the next six years from the year 2002;

(b) if not, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reasons for such a wide difference during the said two periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A Statement indicating the year-wise and State/UT-wise data regarding number of suicides under the Head "Self Employed (farming/agriculture) for the period 1997 to 2007" as reported in the Annual Reports of the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) of the Ministry of Home Affairs is enclosed, which is self explanatory (*See* below). The data depicts a declining trend since 2004 and the suicide number has come down to 16632 in 2007 from 18241 in 2004. The reasons for committing suicide by farmers have not been analyzed in the NCRB report. However, the State Governments have broadly reported crop failure, indebtedness, drought, social and economic insecurities as causes for suicide by farmers.

In order to address the problem of indebtedness of farmers, a scheme of debt waiver and debt relief for farmers as announced by the Government in the Union Budget 2008-09 has been implemented by Ministry of Finance benefiting about 3.68 crore of farmers with total amount of waiver and relief amounting to about Rs.65318 crore. Besides a Rehabilitation Package is also being implemented in the 31 districts reporting high number of incident of suicides.

Statement

State-wise Number of Suicides under the subhead Self Employed (Farming/Agriculture) from 1997 to 2007

Sl. No.	State/UT	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Andhra Pradesh	1097	1813	1974	1525	1509	1896	1800	2666	2490	2607	1797
2	Arunachal Pradesh	12	0	6	9	17	27	11	20	25	4	15